THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1870.

The Chicago Tribune.

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WASHINGTON.

The Alaska Territorial Bill Reported Back Adversely.

Debate in the Senate on the Mississippi Bill.

The Senate Judiciary Committee and the Georgia Case.

The New Tariff Bill Regarded as a Dead Measure.

Another Cadetship Hrpker Discovered.

Special Despatch to The Chicago Tribune.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 16.

THE TARIFF BILL.

A caucus mystery leads to the conclusion that the Tariff Bill is very generally to be regarded as a dead measure. It will be taken up in the House some time or other, and a vote of two will probably be consumed in the passage of it, with speeches for and against it, or on the general tariff question, and a motion will then be made to put it on the tables. If that is lost and anybody, the high tariff men being in much displeased with it as anybody else. None of the managers seem on that side of the committee are trying to make an arrangement for more than a few of its provisions, but they do not find a disposition to accept even them. The revenue tariff men are talking of a short bill changing and reducing the rates on some articles, but this plan does not seem to be favored, and whatever will be done with the tariff at this session.

THE GEORGIA CASE

Prove to be a hard nut for the Senate Judiciary Committee to crack. They got a little more light on the case yesterday, and it was voted the morning that where they began. They are almost unanimously in doubts of the way in which things have been managed since the passage of the December Reconstruction act, the chief cause of complaint being that General Terry and a military inquiry as to the eligibility of members of the Legislature. Some of the committee deny that this action was in accord and palpably against the spirit of the act, while others content themselves with saying that it was objectionable to the majority of our institutions. It must be added in behalf of General Terry that his proceedings were over and over again sanctioned by the President and Cabinet, as they doubtless will be by Congress. The committee held that it is the province of Congress to deal with the reconstruction act, either to sustain or to condemn the action of the Executive, as they may think proper to do. Senator Drake, of Missouri, is strongly with the committee, and probably acting in a body on the construction of the clause which bars Legislators from office. Governor Bullock and other State officials met to-day with the committee, and they also assisted in hold their several positions for the whole period for which they were elected, beginning at the present time. The committee will report to the Senate quite decidedly, and probably shortly in a written report that a new and regular election must be held. The committee have been assisted in by 60 books the least difficult of inquiries, and have not yet had time to examine the evidence before the colored members were turned out of the Legislature, and many amusing stories are told about the proceedings of that body before this expulsion were all right. The expurgated Legislature has now elected new Senators and Representatives to fill the vacancies, and the committee will probably report that the Legislature is now organized as it should be, pending the investigation of the case.

THE SENATE.

Mr. CONKLING presented a petition from the Legislature of Georgia, asking the removal of the political disabilities of Governor Jenkins, Senator Hill, and Hon. Benjamin H. Hill, and others, and that the State be restored to its rights in the Union.

Mr. CONKLING said he had received a letter from Governor Jenkins, stating that the petition was signed by a majority of the Legislature, and that the State was ready to comply with the requirements of the reconstruction acts.

Mr. CONKLING moved that the petition be referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. SHERMAN said that the petition was signed by a majority of the Legislature, but not by a majority of the members elected. He thought the petition should be referred to the Committee on Reconstruction.

Mr. CONKLING replied that the Committee on Reconstruction had been discharged from the consideration of the Georgia matter, and that the Committee on the Judiciary had been charged with it.

Mr. SHERMAN said that the Committee on Reconstruction had been discharged from the consideration of the Georgia matter, because it was supposed that the State had been fully reconstructed, but the proceedings of the Legislature of Georgia in expelling colored members had shown that the State was not reconstructed. He thought the petition should be referred to the Committee on Reconstruction.

Mr. CONKLING replied that the Committee on the Judiciary had been charged with the matter, and that it was proper that the petition should be referred to them.

Mr. GREEN offered a resolution instructing the Committee on Commerce to inquire into the expediency of repealing the law conferring admiralty jurisdiction on the Circuit Courts of the United States.

CONGRESSIONAL COURTS.

Mr. CULLOM, from the Committee on Territories, reported a bill providing for the establishment of Circuit Courts, and for the appointment of Judges, &c., in the Territories.

A PIERCE FOR.

Mr. CULLOM also reported a petition from the citizens of Massachusetts, that that State be restored to the Union. Referred to the Committee of the Judiciary. [Laughter.] He also reported a petition from citizens of Virginia to the same effect. Referred.

OTHER STATE MATTERS.

Mr. HITE reported a bill to refund a portion of the money paid for the purchase of Kansas Indian lands. Referred.

Mr. POMEROY reported a bill authorizing the last proceeds of the internal revenue Collection in the State of Kansas to be paid into the State Treasury for the purpose of building a State House. Referred.

Mr. CULLOM reported back adversely a bill providing for the purchase of Kaskaskia Island. Referred.

Mr. CULLOM reported a bill to aid the construction of the levee in Utah, so as to prevent and protect the city.

During the reading of the bill the morning hour expired, and it went over till to-morrow.

THE BANKS.

Mr. BANKS, Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, introduced the following joint resolution, which was read and referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs:

JOINT RESOLUTIONS IN REGARD TO THE CUBAN WAR.

Resolved, By the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the United States will not intervene in the present war between Spain and Cuba, unless it shall be found that the Government of Spain is unable to suppress a state of war existing in Cuba.

The President to-day sent to the Senate a letter from the Secretary of the Treasury in the case of the claim of the Central Branch of the Union Pacific Railroad Company for the sum of $1,600,000 in the Republican Fork Route in Kansas. The letter recommends the payment of the claim, and says that the Company has not been able, after a careful examination, to find any evidence of fraud in the claim, consequently, determined not to detain the matter from the Senate longer.

RECAPITULATION OF THE NAVY.

The Navy Department to-day issued a recapitulation of the Naval Force on hand and under construction, which is interesting as showing the condition of the service at the present time. The number of vessels in commission, with their armament and complement of officers and men, is as follows:

	Vessels.	Guns.	Officers.	Men.
Iron-clads	4	20	20	300
Steamers	29	203	200	2,500
Sailing vessels	3	18	10	150
Total	36	241	230	2,950

The vessels in ordinary, with their armament and complement of officers and men, are

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THE GEORGIA SENATORS.

The recent election of United States Senators by the Legislature of Georgia will be likely to create a broil in the Senate. It will be remembered that the constitution of the State of Georgia was adopted by the people, and members of Congress, and a Governor and State Legislature, were also elected. This Legislature did not, however, meet Congress, by act of June 20, 1868, approved the constitution of that State, and, also, those of Alabama, Louisiana, South Carolina, Florida, and North Carolina, as a condition precedent to their admission. That act provided for the meeting of the Legislatures within twenty days; the Governors-elect to call the Legislatures together. But it provided that, before the assembling of the Legislature, the people should ratify the Fourteenth Amendment, and assent to the conditions that certain sections of the constitution should be null and void.

In all the States named the Legislatures met, organized, and elected United States Senators. In all of them members of the House of Representatives were chosen. The House of Representatives admitted the members elected in Georgia. The Senate admitted all the Senators except those elected from Georgia. The Legislature of Georgia included among its members a number of colored men. The Legislature then proceeded to elect two United States Senators Joshua Hill and Dr. Miller, on the 28th of July, 1868. In the meantime Congress had adjourned. Before Congress met again, in December, the Legislature of Georgia expelled the colored members, and, by a vote of those elected in Georgia, the

THE COURTS.

Several Suits in Bankruptcy and Otherwise, Commenced Against Adam Baierle.

Police Court Proceedings.

United States District Court.

IN RE: THOMSON ET REPRESENT.—Louis Thomson, of Chicago. Involuntary proceeding instituted by William S. Gilbert, of Chicago, who claims on various accounts under this petition to be entitled to the sum of $1,000. The petitioner says that petitioner is a member of the Board of Trade of the City of Chicago, and a member of the Produce Exchange of said city, and has been such for more than one year last past, and that said Louis Thomson is a commission merchant in said city, and has been such for more than one year last past, and that said Louis Thomson has committed an act of bankruptcy, in this, that on the 1st day of February, A. D. 1870, he departed from said city of Chicago, with intent to defraud his creditors, and that he has not returned to said city, and that he has not since said day resided in said city, and that he has not since said day transacted his usual business in said city, and that he has not since said day kept open his usual place of business in said city, and that he has not since said day paid his usual attention to his business affairs in said city, and that he has not since said day been present at his usual place of business in said city, and that he has not since said day been present

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MYSTERIOUS AFFAIR.

A Woman and Child Fatally Poisoned in the West Division.

Singular Conduct of the Head of the Family.

A case of blind poisoning was yesterday brought to light in the West Division. The members of a family—father and child—are dead, and two others—mother and child—are lying in a critical condition. As the investigation has not yet been completed, the circumstances surrounding the case are somewhat involved in mystery, and cannot be unraveled at a public examination made in the afternoon, to warrant the statement that poison was the true cause of the death of the deceased. Where the poison was obtained, or who administered it, is yet to be ascertained. Suspicion rests in that direction, but it will be useless to mention names in this article. It is enough to say that there is no evidence to show that it is by any means certain that it is by any one of the members of the family. The facts connected with the case, so far as ascertained, are as follows:

The family resides on Lake street, in the rear of No. 194, and consists of a man named Andrew Bessner and his family, then consisting of one wife and four children, two boys and two girls, ranging in years from 14 to 4. Last week the family was reduced to the wife and two children, Mr. Bessner and the two girls having died. Mrs. Bessner was taken sick on Tuesday, the 8th inst., and died on Thursday, the 10th inst. Her husband was taken sick on Wednesday, the 9th inst., and died on Friday, the 11th inst. The two girls were taken sick on Thursday, the 10th inst., and died on Saturday, the 12th inst. The mother and child still remain ill, and are reported to be in a critical condition.

The first person taken sick was the mother, and the first to die was the husband. The first person taken sick was the youngest girl, and the first to die was the eldest girl. The mother and child were found on a bed in the rear room of the house, and the father and children were found in the front room. Whether the mother and child were found in the same bed or not is not positively known, but there can be no reasonable doubt that they were. The bodies of the father and children were found in different beds.

The family seemed to be in comfortable circumstances, and lived happily together. Mr. Bessner was employed at a planing establishment on Lake street, in the vicinity of the house in which he resided. He was industrious, and appeared to be attentive to his family. He was a member of the Turner Association, and was in the habit of attending the meetings of that society. He was also a member of the Arbeiter Association. It was connected at the last meeting of the latter association that he had been appointed Delegate to the next session of the Grand Council, to be held in Cincinnati, on the first Monday in March next. Members of the Arbeiter Association are invited to be present at the funeral.

The first notice of preparations for judgment in the case was given by the sickness of the mother. The entire family became prostrated with the disease, and the neighbors were called in to render assistance. Everybody took for granted that it was by natural causes that the husband and children were dying, and that the wife was to follow them. It did not occur to any one that there was foul play in the case. Dr. Hatfield, of No. 194 Lake street, was called in to attend the mother and children. He was in attendance on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, and was present when the husband died. He was also present when the eldest girl died. He was in attendance on the youngest girl when she died. He was also present when the mother and child were found in bed together, and shortly before the husband died. He was in attendance on the mother and child when they